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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Program Director
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee

Friday, February 13, 2009

Written testimony supporting Proposed Senate Bill 3, An Act Prohibiting The
Acquisition Or Use Of Certain Parcels Of Land As Ash Residue Disposal Areas.

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, Senator McKinney, Representative Chapin and members of
the Environment Committee:

Environment Connecticut is pleased to submit this testimony supporting Proposed Senate Bill 3.
This bill would prevent the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRRA) from building a
polluting and dangerous ash landfill in environmentally sensitive areas in Franklin and Windham
Connecticut.

CRRRA is currently proposing to build an ash landfill on property in the town of Franklin. The ash
that would be disposed of at this site is the highly toxic waste product produced by municipal
solid waste incineration. Incinerator ash is highly toxic and contains chemicals such as dioxin as
well as heavy metals. Ironically, the concentrations of toxics in incinerator ash results in ash
landfills being significantly more hazardous than trash landfills.

The proposed site of the Franklin landfill sits atop an aquifer providing drinking water for homes
and businesses in the area. The site is also in close proximity to the Shetucket river. It is
essentially impossible to prevent such landfills from leaching toxic contaminants into the
surrounding environment. As a result, this proposed landfill site poses a direct threat to local
groundwater supplies as well as the health of the Shetucket.

The site currently consists primarily of open space which provides habitat for wildlife.
Construction of the ash landfill would irrevocably destroy this open space and threaten the site as
well as surrounding land with a permanent legacy of toxic contamination.

On behalf of Environment Connecticut's statewide membership, and particularly our members in
and around the towns of Franklin and Windham, I urge the committee to approve this legislation.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps
Program Director
Environment Connecticut